

Program Mission & Goals

Program Mission

The mission of the MSAT Program is to prepare qualified health care professionals in the management of health care problems associated with sports and other activities who, in cooperation with physicians and other allied health care personnel, function as an integral member of the athletic health care team in secondary schools, colleges and universities, professional sports programs, sports medicine clinics, and other athletic health care settings. The intent of the MSAT Program is to prepare athletic trainers to function in cooperation with medical personnel, administrators, coaches, and parents in the development and coordination of efficient and responsive health care delivery systems. Based on a strong foundation of science and scientific principles, graduates will advance athletic training within the interdisciplinary health care system to better serve the clients, the profession, and the community by functioning as clinicians, educators, administrators, and researchers.

Program Philosophy

The program believes that students and faculty function best in an environment that fosters personal and professional growth. The learning environment is designed to challenge students to become confident, competent, and compassionate health care professionals who are able to practice autonomously and ethically within a changing healthcare environment.

Students and faculty are encouraged to support the intellectual development of each other. This requires the use of creative and interactive approaches to teaching and learning with active involvement by all. Students and faculty in this program have various backgrounds in athletic training and in other allied fields, which can be shared and used to enhance the overall program. A spirit of inquiry is essential to maintaining a dynamic program that responds to the health care needs of society.

Students and faculty are expected to be involved in professional, volunteer and learned organizations in order to be contributing members of society through service activities. Respect for individual differences serves as a basic tenet of the program.

Program Goals

The overall goal of the MSAT program is to prepare graduates to apply a wide variety of specific health care skills and knowledge within each of the following 8 content areas (NATA, 2011): evidence-based practice, prevention and health promotion, clinical examination and diagnosis, acute care of injury and illness, therapeutic interventions, psychosocial strategies and referral, healthcare administration, professional development and responsibility. To achieve this goal, a comprehensive curriculum has been designed to integrate formal classroom instruction and clinical education with the incorporation in all aspects of the program the Foundational Behaviors of Professional Practice (NATA 2011).